

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM AT 103 W. MAIN STREET, UNION, SC 29379
STREAM TO FRANK HART UNION COUNTY SUPERVISOR
FACEBOOK PAGE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell (arrived at 5:50 p.m.), Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly
Absent: Councilman Tommie Hill

Notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda giving the date, time and place of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board in the hall of the Union County Courthouse and a copy was mailed or emailed to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Casie Jolly, Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, Charles Warner at the Union Times, the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Shell Suber at MHISC, and Michael Lee with MHISC as well as to elected officials and heads of various county departments and offices. A notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda were also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order.

Council Chaplin David Sinclair gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Tracie Campbell, District 1 – Present (arrived at 5:50 p.m.)

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Present

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Absent

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on July 14, 2020 and to adopt the minutes as written.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate to William C. Lawson for 10 years, to Phillip H. Sprouse for 10 years and to Cindy K. Fore for 35 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson stated she has a vacancy in her Family Court section and a vacancy in her Common Pleas section and asked permission to fill those two vacancies.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the Clerk of Court to fill the two budgeted vacant positions in her office.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to boards and commissions. There is a vacancy on the Board of Appeals due to a term expiration. There are two vacancies on the Building Code Board of Appeals as a member had passed away and there is a vacancy for an alternate. There is a vacancy on the Board for Phillipi Fire District due to the resignation of Carrol Alexander, Jr. Chairman Frank Hart asked if any councilmember had any recommendations for appointments but there were none.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had received a request from Town Administrator Michael Tyler for the Town of Jonesville. The Town of Jonesville is applying for a CDBG Grant through the Catawba Regional Council of Governments for the old Wellington Leisure Mill Site. The cleanup will cost roughly \$1,000,000.00. As the Brownsfield Cleanup Grants max out at \$500,000.00 each, they plan to do it in two separate phases. They require a 10% match which is \$50,000.00. He requested assistance from the County of Union on the matching funds. Chairman Frank Hart proposed assisting the Town of Jonesville by providing \$25,000.00 from the Economic Development Fund to be used toward the matching funds provided the grant is approved.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to provide \$25,000.00 from the Economic Development Fund to be used for the matching funds for the Brownsfield Cleanup Grant for the Town of Jonesville if the grant is approved.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he wanted Council to consider a Burn Ordinance for Union County. He provided Council with copies of a Burn Ordinance implemented by the City of Union and several other counties in South Carolina. He requested a motion to have the County Attorney draft a Burn Ordinance for the County for Council to consider. This is something the fire service has asked for several times.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to have the County Attorney draft a Burn Ordinance for Council to consider.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie suggested including Sheriff Sam White in the process since he is familiar with the City's Burn Ordinance. Chairman Frank Hart stated they would also include Code Enforcement in the process. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart asked Council to consider moving forward with a Lease Purchase Agreement. During the budget process it had been proposed to do a lease purchase in the amount of \$540,000 which would include an ambulance at a cost of \$265,000.00, a flatbed dump at a cost of \$80,000.00 and a roll-off truck at a cost of \$195,000.00. He said he had checked and he could get a 5-year lease agreement with a 2% interest rate with payments of \$114,565.00 a year. He said he needed Council's approval since he would have to get an attorney to handle the agreement and process.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to move forward with a Lease Purchase Agreement as presented.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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Chairman Frank Hart called for any comments from elected officials or department heads.

Finance Director Ann Boggs stated Council had been provided a financial report and she was working on the audit work schedule. She said she is working on grants related to the Cares Act.

Sheriff Sam White said they would be getting three new vehicles in the next few weeks. He said he was waiting for the new State purchasing prices to be posted before requesting the funds for the three vehicles allocated in the current budget. Sheriff White said he was putting together some prices for body-worn cameras for his investigators and drug agents that he would bring back to Council.

Veterans Affairs Officer Cindy Fore stated they were anticipating some changes from the State and are waiting to see what comes out of that.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade said Michael Baker International is their new engineering firm and there is about \$255,000.00 worth of engineering that needs to be done before they start the next phase of the airport project. The FAA has told them they need to redo the asphalt and they are looking at a parallel taxi-way. The FAA funds to cover this would be in the new budget which goes into effect October 1st and it would probably be July of 2021 before we received reimbursement. Council would need to approve this in order to begin the next phase of the airport project. We are in the process of closing out the grant for the purchase of the Booker property and are applying for the final reimbursement from the FAA. He said Kevin Shropshire at Timken Sports Complex wants to make their part-time employee a full-time employee which was approved in the budget. He said he has ordered chairs to be used at the Recreation Department. They found a PA system that they plan to have installed before the start of basketball. They have been meeting about what events they can host. They have a gentleman that wants to host a weekend at the airport. They gave him permission at the last Airport Commission meeting to do this on September 23rd. They are attempting to do a Fun Day at the Airport on October 24th which would include airport rides, helicopter rides, parachute jumping and live entertainment. Hosting the events is not the problem but keeping people safe is the problem. He said he has received a schedule for Union High School football but he does not know about spectators.

EMS Director Eric Harold gave an update on their call volume and response time. He will be applying for the AFG grant again this year and they are helping to provide the County offices with PPE and cleaning supplies.

Community Development Director Katherine Pendergrass stated she had been working with the Planning Commission on training and certification. They are trying to finish the Comprehensive Plan. She said she is working with Ann Angermeier with Upstate Workforce Board where they are putting together an Upstate four-year plan. She attended a meeting to discuss section two of the plan which has to do with supporting regional economic growth and self-sufficiency. She said they gave out numbers on the homeless and said Union County did not have any homeless people. She had seen where a group of people were trying to set up a homeless shelter for Union County so that surprised her. She said last week there were approximately 80 people who came

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off unemployment and there are supposed to be 229 this week coming off unemployment. She talked to some of the HR staff from some of the local companies and some still have employees on furlough but there are some jobs open. She is working with the municipalities that are holding events to encourage people to complete the Census and they had a total of 60 people to sign up. Councilman Ben Ivey asked the percentage of the people coming off of unemployment went back to work or did their benefits ran out. Katherine Pendergrass stated that was a good question but she did not have the statistics on that.

(Councilwoman Tracie Campbell arrived for the meeting at 5:50 p.m.)

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated Frank Hart had formed a task force to try to look at how we can move forward with events and stay within the guidelines of the CDC and the Governor's executive order. They will make some recommendations on events on August 25th. They will hold a zoom meeting at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow to discuss some possible events they can do to enhance tourism. Chairman Frank Hart stated the last Governor's order was very restrictive because if you are having an event for more than 250 people you have to get a special exemption from Commerce and show where you can comply with all the CDC requirements.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance to acknowledge and authorize the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Union for the provision of a County Magistrate to act as Municipal Judge for the City of Union: and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance to acknowledge and authorize the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Union for the provision of a County Magistrate to act as Municipal Judge for the City of Union: and other matters related thereto.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report and stated he, Curtiss Hunter and Katherine Pendergrass had been working on rural broadband. There was some federal money that came out through the Cares funding. They released the application about a week ago which is due by tomorrow and the project has to be done by December. He talked with someone from Charter who said they have backed off of their requirement to have a certain number of individuals before they would provide service in a rural area. Chairman Frank Hart said they are working on a plan to get broadband throughout the county. The County funded some library satellite sites in Lockhart, Jonesville and Carlisle that could be used as trunk line to provide distribution. They will be trying to get some COVID-19 funding to help with that. He said they are working with the Catawba Regional COG who have put in for a grant for a broadband study for Union, Chester, Lancaster and York counties. The COVID-19 Task Force has been meeting every Thursday since March. He thought the City of Union was looking at an ordinance pertaining to masks which would be enforced within the municipal limits. The committee is going to look at that to make a recommendation to County Council for the unincorporated areas. He stated we are under an order by the Chief Justice that anyone entering the Courthouse must wear a face covering. Union County has had a total of 375 cases of the coronavirus and we are currently rated number 42 in the state in terms of the number of cases. Chairman Frank Hart said he had a letter from the Chamber of Commerce who has been handling the broadcast of the Council

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meetings. They requested between \$800 to \$900 for equipment to handle this. He recommended the County buy the equipment and the Chamber of Commerce would be allowed to use it to continue to handle the broadcasting. Council was in agreement.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports but there were none.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss two personnel matters and a legal matter.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss two personnel matters and a legal matter.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were ready to close executive session and no votes were taken during executive session.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to close executive session.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

The County Council closed executive session and returned to regular session.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business but there was none.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council